with the Maldives, a friendly neighbouring country. Government have assisted the Government of Maldives under its bilateral technical assistance programme. Such cooperation has included the construction of a general hospital as well as of a technical institute in the Maldives. Government also assists the Maldives in its efforts at human resource development in a variety of fields including health, education and technical training. During the visit of the President of Maldives to India from June 30-July 1, 1998, the growth of bilateral economic cooperation was among the subjects reviewed.

Wasteful expenditure in Indian Missions

4037. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that wasteful expenditure in various Indian diplomatic missions abroad are increasing day by day;

(b) if so, whether Government have chalked out any plan to check wasteful expenditure in such Indian missions; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) to (c) Utmost attention is given to avoiding any excessive or wasteful expenditure in Indian diplomatic Missions abroad. Detailed and specific instructions have been issued to our Embassies abroad to identify areas where strick control could effectively curtail expenditure without compromising efficiency in the working of the Mission/Posts. The Proposals and expenditure figures received from Missions are carefully examined and in critical areas where there remains a tendency for the expenditure to increase have been identified and the expenditure figures in respect thereto are regularly monitored and corrective measures taken from time to time. The expenditure is subjected to post-audit by the Office of the Chief Controller of Account and is also subject to statutory audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

These measures have been generally successful in achieving the objectives and effective in controlling the expenditure. This is, however, an ongoing exercise.

प्रधान मंत्री की अमरीकी राष्ट्रपति और पाकिस्तान के प्रधानमंत्री के साथ बातचीत

4038. श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे: क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) प्रधान मंत्री द्वारा हाल ही में अमरीकी राष्ट्रपति और पाकिस्तान के प्रधान मंत्री के साथ सरकारी तौर पर हुई बातचीत के विशेष परिणाम क्या रहे;

(ख) उक्त बातचीत के दौरान कौन-कौन से द्विपक्षीय मुद्दों पर बातचीत की गई थी और क्या उन्होंने कश्मीर पर भारत के रुख के बारे में दोनों राष्ट्राध्यक्षों को अवगत कराया है;

(ग) कश्मीर पर इन राष्ट्राध्यक्षों की क्या प्रतिक्रिया रही है; और

(घ) किन-किन क्षेत्रों में द्विपक्षीय समझौतों पर हस्ताक्षर किए गए है?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती वसुन्धरा राजे): (क) प्रधान मंत्री ने हाल ही में अमरीका के राष्ट्रपति अथवा पाकिस्तान के प्रधान मंत्री से कोई सरकारी बातचीत नहीं की है।

(ख) से (घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठते।

Issue of Multi-Purpose Cards to Indians Abroad

4039. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether identity and multi-purpose cards are proposed to be issued to Indians abroad; if so, the benefits that would accrue to the holders of the card; and

(b) the conditions of eligibility for issue of such cards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will the placed on the Table of the House.

Detainees at Myanmar Jail

4040. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether (i) S. Gandhi Singh, (ii) T.H. Mani Singh, (iii) K.H. Mani Singh, (iv) Yang Khoyan Baite, detainees at the Myanmar jail arrested on 24.4.1995 by the Myanmar police at the border gate No. 2, namphalong are still alive;